

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Status of the claims

With entry of this amendment, claim 1 is amended. Claims 18-26 are pending.

II. Support for the amendments

Support for the amendment to the specification can be found in the first paragraph of the present application on page 1, which incorporates U.S. Patent Application No. 08/788,822 by reference. The specific language added to the specification finds support from claim 26 of the '822 application. The amendment merely adds language that was incorporated by reference and therefore is considered to have been part of the application as filed. Support for polynucleotides encoding fusion proteins comprising the pan DR binding proteins of the invention can be found, e.g., in the first paragraph on page 11 of the present application. No new matter is added.

III. Written Description Rejection

Claims 18-26 were rejected as allegedly not meeting the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner argued that there was no explicit support for the genus of peptides recited in the claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

While Applicants strongly disagree that the present application does not support the claims as previously pursued, to expedite prosecution, the claims have been amended. Since the amended claims recite the sequence of a specific peptide that is expressly recited in a priority application that is incorporated by reference, Applicants submit that there should be no issue regarding the written description of the amended claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Appl. No. 09/709,774
Amdt. dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004

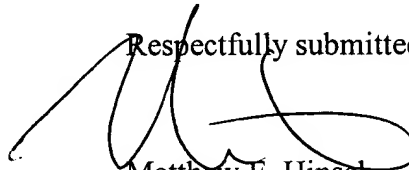
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew E. Hinsch', is written over the typed name.

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